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TAB A

FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS STAFF

PROGRAM The Tonight Show

DATE December 1, 1976 12:45 AM

SUBJECT Interview With Jack Anderson: [REDACTED]

BEN
What did we really do re: Anderson?
Do we have a short version on it?
GB
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STATION
WNBC-TV
NBC Network
Washington, D.C.

STATINTL

JOHNNY CARSON: My next guest this evening is...

[Applause]

CARSON: Jack Anderson, I think, is probably the country's top investigative reporter. He's syndicated nationally in about a thousand newspapers, and he's heard on his own radio program daily. Would you welcome please, Mr. Jack Anderson.

[Applause]

CARSON: Every time I see someone approaching with a folder I think it's a subpoena or something like we're going right to deposition. We talked about this briefly the last time, and I would assume this is probably part of the CIA's investigation into you while you were publishing stories. They got a little steamed because they couldn't figure out where all this information was coming from.

JACK ANDERSON: That's right. There is a CIA file on me. The file's about that thick. This is just a small part of it, but I really brought it as sort of a comic opera.

CARSON: I'm interested in what they actually do.

ANDERSON: What happened is that the CIA had...

CARSON: So they have to do this on orders from someone obviously, or do they take it upon themselves to do it?

ANDERSON: Johnny, I think that they would have had to have orders. Because you see it's against the law. It's a

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violation of U.S. statutes for the CIA to conduct any investigation or any surveillance within the boundaries of the United States. Now, what this is, what this shows is a blatant and brazen violation of the law, but what they did was set up a commande post just outside of my office. They called it Nest, and took pictures of everyone going in and out, apparently bugged my office, I say apparently because they referred to Cellutex II which is some kind of mysterious code name. Well, the ceiling of my office was made of Cellutex, and of course experts in bugging tell me that if you put it above you, you get more of the conversation than if you place it below. Then they referred to -- well, they had eighteen radio cars -- eighteen of them actually -- eighteen radio cars following my reporters and me around.

CARSON: Right.

ANDERSON: And then there's a reference to some mysterious electronic gear. It's so mysterious that even the secret papers don't really discuss it and the only clue I had to it is -- my neighbor, a dentist, Doctor Paul Brand (?), he had a garage door that operated electronically. He reported that during this time it would mysteriously go up and down at two and three o'clock in the morning.

CARSON: Very strange.

ANDERSON: I know. It was the only clue we had.

CARSON: So they were doing this obviously to find out where you were getting your information, and from whom, et cetera.

ANDERSON: Yes. Here you can see part of it. This is Project Mud Hen.

CARSON: That's you, right?

[Laughter]

CARSON: You don't object to that, do you? It's not a bad code name, I mean.

ANDERSON: It's appropriate.

[Crosstalk]

CARSON: Can I read part of this?

ANDERSON: Sure, but first you've got to introduce the cast of characters.

CARSON: Memorandum for the record, subject, Project Mud Hen.

ANDERSON: Well, these are code names.

CARSON: I love this one.

ANDERSON: Brandy is me.

CARSON: The following Sugar coverage will be initiated on idents. Brandy and Cordial.

ANDERSON: That's me. Cordial is Les Whitten.

CARSON: In order to determine general behavior patterns, possibility of counter-Sugar in the direction of any other governmental component or of principal idents. That's government language right there.

ANDERSON: They started off as you see with only eight automobiles but they increased it to eighteen a little later.

CARSON: Brandy, that's you, right?

ANDERSON: Right.

CARSON: Were assigned five agents, fast automobiles. I guess they just ran along the side there.

[Laughter]

✓ CARSON: Probably the new agent, breaking him in. Cordial had four agents, four automobiles, location, proximity of residence and offices. Seven dogs coverage during daylight hours, and so forth and so on and so on, and it tells about the techniques and what they're supposed to do.

In other words, they spend all this time and money on the private citizen.

ANDERSON: Here's a typical...

CARSON: How did you get them?

ANDERSON: Oh...

CARSON: I see.

[Laughter]

CARSON: Right, Brandy.

[Laughter]

ANDERSON: Now, this is a typical sheet, giving the

hours of the day, showing what I was doing.

CARSON: Home.

ANDERSON: Twelve-thirty, Brandy leaves home in Cadillac. It's an old Cadillac...

[Laughter]

ANDERSON: Twelve-fifty, Brandy parks Madison Garage. Twelve-fifty-two, Brandy enters Madison Hotel. Fourteen-ten, they got me at the office with an envelope and attache case. This is the part I like. Sixteen-fifteen, Brandy departs office, takes cab, lost...

[Laughter]

ANDERSON: Eighteen radio cars.

CARSON: And they lost the cab.

ANDERSON: Yes.

[Laughter]

CARSON: Don't you feel more secure, folks? They lost a cab in Washington.

Now, with all of this going on, what did -- you know, as a columnist who spends a good deal of your time investigating things and trying to uncover malfeasance and corruption and what the hell is going on. You have to keep your own skirts pretty well starched and clean, don't you? I mean, they could really do a number on you. I assume that's what something this is for, to check into your personal life, your moral character, who you're seen with. Have they gone through your whole life?

ANDERSON: Yes. In fact, one of the things that disturbs me about the whole CIA is what they found out. In fact, they even had my name wrong. They had me -- the file, they had me listed in the file as Jackson Anderson. That is not my name. I've never even been called Jackson.

CARSON: Right.

ANDERSON: There are so many things that are wrong. The greatest excitement was on March 17th, 1972. On this occasion, I had lunch with the CIA Director, Richard Helms.

CARSON: Right.

ANDERSON: And even though we were -- even though the CIA Director was there, look what they did. It was proposed to

the Director of Security that certain limited Sugar coverage should be affected in the Montpelier Room during the meeting between Brandy and the Director. They were spying on the Director.

CARSON: That was the head of the CIA at that time?

ANDERSON: Yes. Two teams of two agents each will also lunch at the restaurant and maintain careful Sugar observation.

CARSON: It gets to be a little...

✓ ANDERSON: At no time should the Director be made aware that Sugar Coverage was in the restaurant.

GUEST: Like "Get Smart."

CARSON: Yes, it does sound -- it's almost...

ANDERSON: As I said...

CARSON: It becomes rather ludicrous, doesn't it?

ANDERSON: It's comic opera, and then the bulk of the Sugar team will be positioned in the vicinity of the hotel to be ready to resume full and effective Sugar coverage on Brandy to the conclusion...

CARSON: Of course this requires a lot of time, money spent, which obviously is the taxpayers' money. God only knows how much money the CIA gets. Nobody has really been able to determine how they are funded directly.

ANDERSON: About a quarter of a million dollars for this one instance.

CARSON: In other words for this kind of...

ANDERSON: This operation alone, eighteen radio cars. It's a very expensive operation.

CARSON: Which was illegal to begin with because they had no right to do any domestic surveillance whatsoever. Let me take a break here, Jack, and we'll be right back after this.

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CARSON: This almost becomes ludicrous but we might do one more thing here to show you -- you carry this, ad infinitum, you had -- while you were being photographed by these agents and followed by the CIA people, you had your own children, just for the fun of it, I guess, for our and take pictures.

ANDERSON: I found out that they were following me, Johnny.

CARSON: Right.

ANDERSON: In fact, one of my sources gave me the license numbers of the cars. That helped. So I put my kids to work and they did a little counter-surveillance.

CARSON: Not only did they do it, but the CIA also reported on their surveillance.

ANDERSON: That's right. It's -- this is an urgent memo on 4th April, 1972, they'd been at the Concorde Methodist Parking Lot, overlooking my house, and they had a couple of agents there.

CARSON: They were preparing to leave at 0315 when a station wagon with an unidentified female, your daughter, pulled into the lot. She brought up a camera, rested it on the dash and through the front window took a picture of agent so-forth. She continued around the circle, stopped behind agent and took a picture of that agent through the open window on the driver's side. She attached sketch.

ANDERSON: Position number one.

CARSON: Shows you how she put a camera and took it through -- now, this is really incredible.

[Laughter]

CARSON: The woman drove west on River road, east ~~on~~ on Burdette Road, and parked on the right. She got out of the vehicle and used what appeared to be a movie camera to take pictures of agent so-and-so's car as he went by going on River Road, in other words, they were reporting on your children reporting on them.

ANDERSON: Yes.

CARSON: Ah, wonderful.

Look, lest we be accused of vilifying the CIA, they ^Rserve obviously a useful purpose and we have to have foreign surveillance and foreign intelligence, but how does one put a stop to the government, especially the FBI and the CIA, getting into matters that they have no right getting into and putting surveillance on private citizens?

ANDERSON: I think by putting the spotlight on it, by doing what we're doing here. Poking a little fun at them. I think after we laugh at them a little bit, after we point out the comedy of the whole thing, the course of the whole thing, that they probably aren't going to do it again. You people get visions of my neighbors garage going up and down at two-thirty in the morning, and my kids taking pictures of CIA agents who in turn are taking pictures. At one point, CBS-TV was following around,

for the 60 Minutes show, taking pictures of me, and we have from the CIA files pictures that the CIA took of CBS taking pictures of me.

[Laughter]

CARSON: Well, that does approach absurdity.

ANDERSON: It is ridiculous, but the CIA...

CARSON: Who controls the CIA? Is the President able to say, hey, I'm going to go over and walk into the CIA and say I think I'll take a look and see what's going on?

ANDERSON: Yes. They try to get the -- they try to get the President deniability (?), but there is no question that the President is able to control. If he wants to, he can order the CIA to do anything he wants. If he wants, he can see any CIA file he wishes, and there's no question that the President is still in charge.

And, I guess it probably ought to be said that the CIA has done some good work. They're awfully good with some of their technology. For example, I've actually seen transcripts of conversations inside the Kremlin between Kremlin leader. They weren't too enlightening, but at least we're able to do it. In other words...

CARSON: They had the technology. They were able to electronically...

ANDERSON: That's right.

CARSON: Of course the Russians obviously have the same capability, I would assume.

ANDERSON: I would assume that they might. They bombard our embassy there with microwaves.

CARSON: Do you ever talk on telephones? How do you handle information over the phone? I think you would be foolish to talk on the telephone to anyone who had any kind of information that would be confidential.

ANDERSON: I play whatever games my sources want to. One of them wanted to meet me at midnight in an alley. So, I thought it was ridiculous. I was -- I was afraid I'd get mugged, but if that's what they wanted to do, that's what we'd do. As far as telephones, no, we wouldn't use the telephone with a good source. As a matter of fact, to show you -- because I do want to read..

CARSON: I thought you had a recorder on you for a moment.

ANDERSON: I want to reassure my sources here. Let me turn to -- after eighteen radio cars and all this, here is the memo -- that's not the one. I wanted you to know what you get for your two and a half million dollars. Your two hundred and fifty -- quarter of a million dollars.

CARSON: Your informants?

ANDERSON: If I could just find it.

CARSON: We've got to get your files in order first, Jack.

GUEST: There's a CIA man behind the curtain.

[Laughter]

CARSON: Try taking the picture over here. He can tell you where it is. In other words, they found out no knowledge...

ANDERSON: I wanted to read it to you, but after spending about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars, after all this, all the photographs and all the wiretapping, they found nothing, except they did discover that my secretary had come out and had met a low level Air Force employee and got in a car with him, and so they were successful for a quarter of a million dollars in discovering who my secretary's -- one of my secretary's boyfriends was.

CARSON: You think there'll be less need -- and I don't want to get you in a political side here, but you think there'll be less need for investigative reporting under the new administration, or do you think the press should be an adversary all the time. Should they not?

ANDERSON: Yes, I believe in investigative reporting and the adversary role of the press. Sure, I think probably there will be less need, simply because there are more investigative reporters now. They've suddenly been fashionable. There was a time when we were just about the only ones doing it. There were a few other. Now, most of the major newspapers are engaged in investigative reporting.

CARSON: I would think the Watergate thing and the revelations that came out would make people very reluctant to carry, to have more malfeasance in office.

ANDERSON: That's right. I think that the Watergate was wholesome, when you look back over it. We did make the President accountable. We threw out a President, forced him out of office in the middle of his term. Probably no other country could have done that, without bayonets, without an armed crew.

CARSON: So all the unpleasantness you feel was a kind

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of catharsis.

ANDERSON: The democratic process has worked.

CARSON: Right. It's held up pretty well through all this, hasn't it. We'll take a break.

TAB B

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